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of stone, ladles of musk-ox horn, and garments of seal-skin and caribou fur. The natives, growing more and more excited as my stock of trade goods diminished, jostled and clamoured for place, fearful of being too late for the bargains. Finally a riot threatened, and I resorted to strategy, stopping the trading to fill or relight my pipe whenever their emotions gained the upper hand. By evening I had exhausted all my goods and amassed enough specimens to fill my sled for the return journey.

Two of the villagers accompanied me back to the station, partly from curiosity, partly to gain the advantages of early trading. They were not the representatives I myself would have chosen, for they were young and inexperienced, with all the presumption that often goes with youth. The size of our outfit awed them a little the first day, and the many strange instruments set up around the station amazed and bewildered them. But their embarrassment passed away overnight; consumed by curiosity, they wanted to handle everything they saw and begged continually for whatever seized their fancy. Palaiyak was quite disgusted with them. He told them about the missionaries who were coming the following year, men who would teach them the good life that led after death to the sky. But our guests assured him they had no desire to go to sky-land; they were content

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with their own country, which contained enough seals and caribou to satisfy all their needs.

I intended to revisit the settlement on Victoria Island at the earliest opportunity, but preferred to choose my own travelling companions. Our guests therefore returned alone, while I arranged to spend a few days in the hut of the leader of our local tribe. My host, the hero of the skirmish with the grizzly, had now recovered the use of his right hand, and was preparing to cross to the Liston and Sutton Islands for the seal-hunt, since it was still too early in the winter to build a hut on the sea-ice far away from land. He suggested that I should join his train to the islands and push on later to Victoria Island, which was but thirty-five miles beyond; and as the invitation accorded well with my plans I accepted gladly.

The wife of my host was Light, the lady who had filched the pot and the frying-pan from our station. It has not been my habit to lodge among thieves, but my experience on this occasion was most encouraging. Light was charming as a hostess. She licked my plate before each meal that I might eat from a clean dish, and when handing me boiled seal meat from her steaming pot she squeezed it tenderly between thumb and forefinger that no surplus juice might drip on my clothing. Lacking candy, she showered on me the national substitute, delicate cubes of oily seal-blubber;